

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1. In Fig. 1, the reference numeral 7" has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

The office action of April 24, 2009, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that the drawings are objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p) (5).

Claims 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over the patent to Frommann et al. in view of JP 10-046310 to Den et al.

Claims 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Frommann et al. and Den et al., and further in view of WO 02/14572 to Rydholm.

In connection with the Examiner's objection to the drawings, applicant has attached hereto a Replacement Sheet in which the reference numeral 7" has been added.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted

that the objection to the drawings is overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has amended claims 7-11.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims now on file particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended the claims to address the instances of indefiniteness pointed out by the Examiner.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 7-12 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph is overcome and should be withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims presently on file differ essentially and in an unobvious, highly advantageous manner from the constructions disclosed in the references.

Turning now to the references and particularly to the patent to Frommann et al., it can be seen that this patent discloses a process and device for coating the surface of strip material. The

Examiner acknowledges that Frommann et al. do not teach measuring devices for measuring the position of the metal strand in the guide channel, the induced current in the inductors, and the induced current in the supplementary coils. The Examiner also agrees that Frommann et al. do not teach automatic control devices that are suitable for controlling the induced current in the supplementary coils as a function of the measured parameters in order to keep the metal strand in a central position in the guide channel.

The Den et al. reference discloses a hot dip coating method.

The Examiner combined these references in determining that claim 7 would be unpatentable over such a combination. Applicant respectfully submits that neither of these references, nor their combination, teach the present invention. Den et al. do not teach measuring devices for induced current in the supplementary coils or control devices for controlling the current in the supplementary coils. Since Den et al. do not even use supplementary coils there can be no teaching of a control device for such coils. Also, the elements 11a, 11b of Den et al. are not measuring devices. Instead, they are drives for the primary coils 10a, 10b. The last sentence in paragraph [0006] of Den et al.

clearly states that only the position of the steel strip is measured. There is no teaching of measuring induced current. Thus, the combined references also do not teach devices for measuring induced current in supplementary coils or control devices as recited in claim 7.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

The remaining reference, which was cited in combination with Frommann et al. and Den et al. in rejecting claims 8-12, has also been considered. This reference adds nothing to the teachings of Frommann et al. and Den et al. so as to arrive at the present invention as discussed above in connection with claim 7. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection of claims 8-12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over a combination of the above-discussed references is overcome and should be withdrawn.

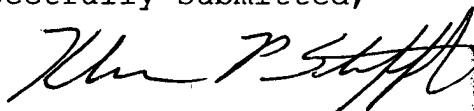
Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

**HM-626**

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on August 21, 2009.

By:

  
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: August 21, 2009